

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the specify the specific embodiments of Claims 4 and 6, as well as an oily ingredient. Claim 10 is amended to clarify the definition of the abbreviations "EPDM" and "EPM". Support for this amendment is found at page 10, lines 18-26, of the specification and the claims.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 7-23 are pending in the present application. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Ghali for the helpful and courteous discussion of the present application held on August 28, 2002, and for indicating that the above amendment would further favorable prosecution of the present application.

The claimed invention is a sheet for covering the skin or hair containing a thermoplastic resin, a medical ingredient, and an oily ingredient (see amended Claim 1, lines 1 to 19). The thermoplastic resin, a medical ingredient, and an oily ingredient are all defined within amended Claim 1 (see amended Claim 1, lines 1 to 19).

One feature of the present invention is that the claimed sheet has a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50% (see Claim 1, lines 20 to 21). The claimed sheet can act effectively on the sight of the skin or hair to which the sheet is applied by obtaining excellent conformity to the skin or hair (see page 12, lines 5-14, and the results reported in Tables 1-4 at pages 15-21 of the specification). As a result, the claimed sheet contacts the skin for an increased period of time, and can provide a comfortable sensation throughout the duration of its use (see page 12, lines 5-14, and the results reported in Tables

1-4 at pages 15-21 of the specification). The claimed sheet can accomplish excellent conformity to the skin or hair due to the claimed modulus (see page 12, lines 5-14, and the results reported in Tables 1-4 at pages 15-21 of the specification). The excellent modulus is due, in part, to the addition of the oily ingredient to the thermoplastic resin, and the medical ingredient (see page 10, lines 12-26, of the specification).

The rejections of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over any of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,122,158 (U.S. '158), 4,344,431 (U.S. '431), and/or 6,063,397 (U.S. '397) alone or in combination are respectfully traversed.

U.S. '158 describes a method and composition for the topical application of an active ingredient to the skin (see Abstract). This composition contains a fabric carrier of a polyolefin polymer (see column 4, lines 2-8) and an active agent (see column 3, lines 3-6). The invention described in U.S. '158 is aimed at solving the problem of treating burns through a controlled release of the above-mentioned active agent from the above-mentioned composition to the burn site (see column 2, lines 16-21). Nowhere in U.S. '158 can it be found that the composition possesses any of the claimed oily ingredients and an increased conformity to the skin or hair; thereby increasing the time that the composition contacts the skin and providing a comfortable sensation during its use, much less a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%.

U.S. '431 describes an article containing a polyolefin and a drug for the automatic controlled dispensing of quantities of a drug to the bloodstream through the implantation of the device subcutaneously (see column 3, lines 1-13). Nowhere in U.S. '431 can it be found that the article possesses any of the claimed oily ingredients and an increased conformity to the skin or hair; thereby increasing the time that the article contacts the skin and providing a

comfortable sensation during its use. Further, U.S. '431 does not describe a composition containing a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%.

U.S. '397 describes a disposable, single use personal care cleansing and conditioning product containing a polyolefin substrate, a conditioning agent, and a lathering surfactant (see column 2, lines 59-67). Nowhere in U.S. '397 can it be found that the product possesses the claimed oily ingredient or an increased conformity to the skin or hair; thereby increasing the time that the product contacts the skin and providing a comfortable sensation during its use. Further, U.S. '397 does not describe a composition containing a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%.

In direct contrast to any of U.S. '158, U.S. '431, and U.S. '397 alone or in any combination, the claimed invention is directed to a sheet having an oily ingredient and a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%. The claimed modulus of the sheet results in a sheet having excellent conformity to the skin or hair. Therefore, U.S. '158, U.S. '431, and U.S. '397 alone or in any combination fail to describe or suggest the claimed sheet which contains from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of a thermoplastic resin, from 0.01 to 200 parts by weight of a medical ingredient, an oily ingredient, and a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%. Accordingly, any of U.S. '158, U.S. '431, and U.S. '397 alone or in any combination fail to disclose or suggest the claimed sheet, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the above amendment. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, the abbreviations: "EPDM" and "EPM" have been replaced with their corresponding long form

equivalents: --ethylene-propylene -diene terpolymer-- and --ethylene-propylene copolymer--.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Should anything further be required to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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HEREWITH

IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Twice Amended) A sheet for covering the skin or hair comprising 100 parts by weight of [a] at least one thermoplastic resin (A) selected from the group consisting of low-density polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, linear low-density polyethylene, very-low-density polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutene, poly-4-methylpentene-1, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer, ethylene-methyl methacrylate copolymer, ethylene- α -olefin copolymer, 6-Nylon, 66-Nylon, polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polystyrene, polyvinyl acetate, polyacrylonitrile, polycarbonate, and polyacrylate; [and]

0.01 to 200 parts by weight of [a] at least one medical ingredient (B) acting on the skin or hair selected from the group consisting of a moisturizer, a whitening agent, a UV absorber, a slimming agent, a circulation promoter, an astringent, an anti-inflammatory agent, a wrinkle-formation preventive agent, an ameliorating agent, a cooling agent, a warming agent, a hair remover, a hair growing agent, a hair-growth regulating agent, and a hair nourishing agent; and[,]

at least one oily ingredient selected from the group consisting of a natural fat, natural oil, hydrogenated oil, glyceride derivative obtained from hydrogenation of natural fat, glyceride derivative obtained from hydrogenation of natural oil, higher fatty acid, higher alcohol, ester

derivative of higher alcohol, ester derivative formed of higher fatty acid, glycerin, polyglycerin, monoester, diester, and hydrocarbon;

wherein said sheet comprises a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50%.

10. (Amended) The sheet according to Claim 8, wherein said soft segment comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polybutadiene, polyisoprene, polyethylene, polybutylene, [EPDM, EPM] ethylene-propylene -diene terpolymer, ethylene-propylene copolymer, polyether, and polyester.--

--Claims 4 and 6 are cancelled.--